



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	07-19-01	Interpretation #	01-010
Topic	Sprinkler Substitution for Exterior Wall Protection		
Code Section(s)	§508, California Building Code (1998 ed) Table 5A, California Building Code (1998 ed)		
Requested by	Brian Heyman Division of the State Architect 1130 K Street, Suite 101 Sacramento, CA 95814		
Prepared by	Hugh Council, Division Chief (916) 445-8200		

In a school building where an automatic fire sprinkler system has been used in lieu of fire-resistant construction, must exterior walls be fire-rated regardless of proximity to assumed or actual property lines?

Yes. The California Building Code permits the installation of an automatic fire sprinkler system installed throughout the building to be substituted for one-hour fire-rated construction in Type II-One Hour, Type III-One Hour, and Type V-One Hour buildings (provided the system is not otherwise required). However, Section 508 lists ten specific instances where the substitution may *NOT* waive or reduce the required fire-rated construction. This list includes exterior wall protection dir to proximity of property lines.